

Royal Inauguration
H.R.H. the Crown Prince of Thailand
At
Buddhamonthon Main Hall, Nakhon Pathom
Friday, July 16, BE. 2547/CE. 2004

It is my great pleasure to preside over the Opening Ceremony of the International Conference on Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism and to know in detail the history, aims and objectives of the conference. I appreciate all of your effort, performed through faith, wisdom and perseverance.

Even though there may be some difference in technique used in the interpretation of the Dhamma by proponents of Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism, their ultimate goals of practice are nonetheless the same: that is, not to do any evil, to always do good and to purify the mind. Faith in Buddhism is found amongst people of various nationalities throughout the world, for whom Buddhism plays an important role in their local day to day traditions, cultures and ways of life.

Given the present situation, there is an urgent need for existing Buddhist organizations from around the world to meet and learn from one another, to exchange their various experiences, and the techniques they have been using in carrying out their activities. This will provide a basis of mutual support for, and lend growth and strength to, those engaged in developing an organization aimed at the dissemination of Buddhist principles of purity, study and proper practice. In so doing, Buddhist leaders, scholars and academics will acquire far-reaching vision, and become acutely aware of the changes taking place in the world and learn how best to adjust to them to the advantage of all. In addition, they should become better equipped for helping the many people around the world who are currently suffering as a result of a variety of problems, as well as bring a stable and lasting peace to a troubled world.

The auspicious moment has arrived. I now have great pleasure in formally declaring the International Conference on Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism open. May the conference proceed smoothly and achieve all the goals for which it was convened.